



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



ISMAEL AHMED
DIRECTOR

February 5, 2008

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Dudley Spade, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Spade:

Section 1005 of 2007 Public Act 131 (Enrolled Senate Bill 232) requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report to the Senate and House appropriation subcommittees, the Senate and House fiscal agencies, and the state budget director on the department's implementation of a performance-based licensing system.

The department's Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (BCAL) is committed to a performance-based licensing process that prioritizes resources and focuses regulatory activity on risk to vulnerable adults and children. BCAL currently prioritizes complaint investigations and routine license renewal inspections based on the assessed risk to the vulnerable adults and children served by the licensed organization.

The Adult Foster Care Division of BCAL, in collaboration with stakeholders over the last two years, has developed and implemented a performance-based inspection process. These changes were implemented in phases in 2007. The components of this new inspection process include a shift away from a paper review process to a more interview-based model, focused inspections for facilities with a history of substantial rule compliance and a process to solicit post-inspection feedback from licensees. This year, the Child Welfare and Child Care Divisions will evaluate and adopt applicable best practices from this performance-based inspection process.

In 2007, the Child Welfare Division drafted new rules for child caring institutions in collaboration with a stakeholder group representing these organizations. These draft rules will be presented in public hearings in early 2008. A new rule was drafted that would permit a licensing consultant to use an accredited agency's recent survey report as evidence of compliance with applicable rules. A similar rule will be proposed when BCAL convenes a child placing agency rules workgroup in early 2008. In anticipation of the promulgation of these rules, the Child Welfare Division will pilot these changes in the inspection process in early 2008.

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If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact John Sorbet, chief administrative officer, at (517) 373-7787

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ismael Ahmed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ismael Ahmed

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Director